

51. (New) The method of claim 32 wherein part (c) further comprises tightening pedicle screws to maintain said compression.

REMARKS

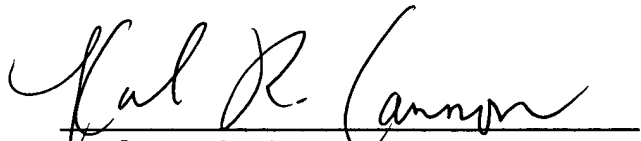
Applicant requests that this Amendment be entered prior to examination of this application. The subject matter added to the claims is supported in the disclosure and is therefore not new matter.

In view of the foregoing, applicants believe that claims 32-51 are all allowable and the same is respectfully requested. If any impediment to the allowance of these claims remains after entry of this Amendment, and such impediment could be alleviated during a telephone interview, the Examiner is invited to initiate the same.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee or to credit any overpayment in connection with this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 50-0836.

DATED this 22 day of January, 2002.

Respectfully submitted,



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Please amend the above-captioned application as follows:

Version of Amendments with Markings to Show Changes Made.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 1, please amend the title as indicated below:

METHOD OF IMPLANTING AN INTERVERTEBRAL SPACER